

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/ S- O: KKURZE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050141

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION PANAMA MARCH 19, FROM SECSTATE
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050141

FOR AMBASSADOR SCALI

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, UNSC

SUBJ: PROPOSED TEXT

THERE FOLLOWS THE PROPOSED TEXT FOR YOUR STATEMENT:

QUOTE THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE WORLD HAS BEEN
WELL SERVED BY UNITED STATES STEWARDSHIP OF THIS VITAL
WATERWAY FOR NEARLY SIXTY YEARS. WITH U. S. MANAGEMENT
AND DEFENSE, THE CANAL HAS NEVER BEEN CLOSED, AND IT
HAS PROVIDED FOR AN EVER- INCREASING NUMBER OF SHIPS
SINCE 1914, WITH NEVER AN INCREASE IN TOLLS SINCE IT
OPENED.

" THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTEMPT TO RECOVER FULLY THE ORIGINAL
CONSTRUCTION COSTS, AND MANY IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN
MADE TO MEET THE GROWING NEEDS OF WORLD SHIPPING.

" NEVERTHELESS, THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER REGARDED THE
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RELATIONSHIP WITH PANAMA ESTABLISHED IN 1903 AS REFLECTING IMMUTABLE REALITIES. IN 1936, AND AGAIN IN 1955, THE TREATY WAS SIGNIFICANTLY REVISED AND REAFFIRMED BY BOTH COUNTRIES. ON BOTH OCCASIONS THE U. S. RELINQUISHED IMPORTANT RIGHTS ACQUIRED IN 1903, AND PROVIDED IMPORTANT NEW ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR PANAMA.

" IN 1964, THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE MODERNIZATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH PANAMA SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN.

" AS UNITED STATES OFFICIALS ENTERED THE NEGOTIATIONS IN LATE 1964, THEY HAD-- AS THEY HAVE TODAY-- THREE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES TO PURSUE IN THE COURSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE PRESIDENT' S GUIDELINES:

-- THE CANAL SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE WORLD' S COMMERCIAL VESSELS ON AN EQUAL BASIS AT REASONABLE TOLLS.

-- THE CANAL SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE OPERATED AND DEFENDED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR AN EXTENDED, BUT DEFINITE, PERIOD OF TIME.

-- THE CANAL SHOULD SERVE WORLD COMMERCE EFFICIENTLY, TO THIS END, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CANAL CAPACITY EITHER BY ADDING AN ADDITIONAL LANE OF LOCKS TO THE EXISTING CANAL OR BY BUILDING A SEA- LEVEL CANAL.

" BY 1967, THREE DRAFT TREATIES HAD BEEN DEVISED AND AGREED UPON BY THE TWO COUNTRIES' NEGOTIATORS. ONE PROVIDED FOR OPERATION OF THE PRESENT CANAL UNDER A JOINT U. S.- PANAMANIAN AUTHORITY, FOR A SIZEABLE INCREASE IN THE ANNUITY PAYMENT TO PANAMA, AND FOR LARGE TRANSFERS OF LANDS AND FACILITIES TO IT. THE SECOND PROVIDED FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A SEA- LEVEL CANAL UNDER A SIMILAR JOINT AUTHORITY AND THE THIRD FOR U. S. DEFENSE OF THE OLD AND NEW CANAL FOR A SPECIFIED TIME.

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" THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME DID NOT MOVE TO RATIFY THOSE TREATIES. IN OCTOBER OF 1970, AT PANAMA'S REQUEST, THE U. S. AGREED TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT UNTIL JUNE OF 1971, THAT THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON.

" DURING THE INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS THAT FOLLOWED, THE UNITED STATES HAS FULLY RECOGNIZED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP DEFINED IN THE 1903 CONVENTION NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH THE REALITIES OF THE WORLD TODAY, AS WELL AS WITH THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. BOTH COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THAT A NEW SPIRIT NEEDS TO GOVERN THEIR RELATIONS IN THIS MATTER.

" AT THE SAME TIME, THE UNITED STATES HAS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ONE OTHER ESSENTIAL REALITY: FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME, THE UNITED STATES MUST CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION AND DEFENSE OF AN ISTHMIAN CANAL, NOT ONLY TO ITSELF AND TO PANAMA BUT ALSO TO ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WHICH HAVE LONG TRUSTED IN U. S. STEWARDSHIP OF THIS WATERWAY IN DEVELOPING THEIR OCEAN TRADE.

" AS A RESULT OF THE PERSISTENT EFFORTS OF BOTH SIDES, WE BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE TREATY TALKS.

" WHEN WE AGREE UPON THE TERMS OF A NEW TREATY, THE EXISTING TREATY WILL, OF COURSE, BE REPLACED. ANY NEW TREATY WILL BE FOR A FIXED PERIOD OF TIME, RATHER THAN " IN PERPETUITY." THERE HAS TO BE PROVISION FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE ZONE INTO THE LEGAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA. A SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED ANNUAL U. S. PAYMENT TO PANAMA FOR USE OF ITS TERRITORY RELATING TO THE CANAL WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, ALSO BE CONSONANT WITH THE TIMES. THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE ENVISION FOR A NEW TREATY WOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE RETURN TO PANAMA OF SUBSTANTIAL TERRITORY NOW PART OF THE CANAL ZONE WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR PANAMANIAN USE OF OTHER AREAS. I WANT TO EMPHASIZE
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THAT WE PROPOSE THAT UNDER THE NEW TREATY PANAMA EXERCISE ITS JURISDICTION IN THE ZONE ON A TIMETABLE TO BE AGREED UPON.

" MUCH REMAINS YET TO BE SETTLED. THE NEW TERMS GOVERN-

ING U. S. PRESENCE IN ORDER THAT IT MAY CONTINUE TO
OPERATE AND DEFEND THE CANAL ARE ESSENTIAL TO REACHING
AGREEMENT. THE U. S. IS CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, NEGOTIATIONS
CONTINUED IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP, MUTUAL RESPECT
AND COOPERATION CAN RESULT IN A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY
TREATY. ROGERS UNQUOTE ROGERS

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